

53. (Twice Amended) A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 operably associated with a regulatory element that controls expression of said nucleic acid molecule.

54. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 comprising:

(a) culturing a host cell comprising said nucleic acid molecule under conditions suitable to produce said polypeptide; and

(b) recovering said polypeptide from the culture.

55. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

72. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a first amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the entire length of a second amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in clone HPHAE52 as deposited with the ATCC as accession number 97810;

(b) the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide, lacking the N-terminal methionine, which is encoded by the cDNA contained in clone HPHAE52 as deposited with the ATCC as accession number 97810;

(c) the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in clone HPHAE52 as deposited with the ATCC as accession number 97810; and

(d) the amino acid sequence of the soluble extracellular domain of the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA contained in clone HPHAE52 as deposited with the ATCC as accession number 97810;

wherein a protein consisting of said first amino acid sequence binds Fas ligand.

88. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid residues m-300 of SEQ ID NO:2, where m is an integer in the range of 1 to 49;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid residues 1-y of SEQ ID NO:2, where y is an integer in the range of 193 to 300;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding amino acid residues m-y of SEQ ID NO:2, where m is an integer in the range of 1 to 49 and y is an integer in the range of 193 to 300; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that is the complement of (a), (b), or (c); wherein a protein consisting of said amino acid residues bind Fas ligand.

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104. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a portion of the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit 97810 wherein said portion excludes up to 48 amino acids from the amino terminus of the complete amino acid sequence;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a portion of the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit 97810 wherein said portion excludes up to 107 amino acids from the carboxy terminus of the complete amino acid sequence;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising a portion of the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit 97810 wherein said portion excludes up to 48 amino acids from the amino terminus and up to 107 amino acids from the carboxy terminus of the complete amino acid sequence; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that is the complement of (a), (b), or (c); wherein said polypeptide consisting of a portion of the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit 97810 binds Fas ligand.

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136. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence ~~encoding~~ at least 30 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 wherein a protein consisting of said contiguous amino acids binds Fas ligand.

148. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding at least 30 contiguous amino acids of the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA contained in clone HPHAE52 as deposited with the ATCC as accession number 97810 wherein a protein consisting of said contiguous amino acids binds Fas ligand.